

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

-- A downhole swivel joint assembly comprising an upper component and a lower component. The components may assume either of two stable positions relative to each other, namely an unactivated configuration in which the components are rotationally fast with each other by virtue of the inter-engagement of splines of the lower component with splines of the upper component and an activated configuration in which the respective splines are disengaged so that the upper and lower components can rotate relative to each other. In the activated configuration the upper component is supported relative to the lower component on a ball bearing pack. Movement of the components between the activated and unactivated configurations is controlled by a resiliently deformable latch member which is C-shaped in transverse cross-section. The latch member has an internal profile which co-operates with an external profile provided on the upper component mandrel to allow the upper and lower components to snap between the activated and unactivated configurations.--